



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia, Mar 2019 Quality Declaration

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 18/04/2019

### MEDIA RELEASE

18 April 2019

Embargo: 11:30 am (Canberra Time)

## **Trend unemployment rate steady at 5.0%**

Australia's trend unemployment rate remained steady in March 2019 at 5.0 per cent, according to the latest information released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

ABS Labour Statistics Program Manager Bjorn Jarvis said: "In trend terms, we've now seen the unemployment rate at 5.0 per cent for five months and the participation rate holding steady at 65.6 per cent."

### **Employment and hours**

In March 2019, trend monthly employment increased by around 21,000 persons. Full-time employment increased by 18,000 persons and part-time employment increased by 3,000 persons.

Over the past year, trend employment increased by 299,000 persons (2.4 per cent) which was above the average annual growth over the past 20 years (2.0 per cent).

The trend monthly hours worked increased by 0.2 per cent in March 2019 and by 2.4 per cent over the past year. This was above the 20 year average year-on-year growth of 1.7 per cent.

### **Underemployment and underutilisation**

The trend monthly underemployment rate remained steady at 8.2 per cent in March 2019 and decreased by 0.4 percentage points over the year. The monthly trend underutilisation rate also remained steady, at 13.2 per cent, and decreased by 0.9 percentage points over the year.

### **States and territories trend unemployment rate**

The trend unemployment rate remained steady in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. It decreased by 0.2 percentage points in the Northern Territory and by less than 0.1 percentage points in Queensland and Western Australia. It increased by 0.1 percentage points in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

Over the year, the unemployment rate fell in all states and territories except for Tasmania, the Northern Territory and South Australia.

### **Seasonally adjusted data**

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 per cent in March 2019, while the participation rate also increased 0.1 percentage points to 65.7 per cent. The seasonally adjusted number of persons employed increased by 26,000.

The net movement of employed in both trend and seasonally adjusted terms is underpinned by

around 300,000 people entering and leaving employment in the month.

More details are in the March 2019 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). In addition, further information, including regional labour market information, can be found in the upcoming March 2019 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), due for release on 24 April 2019.

These publications are available for free download (after release) from the ABS website: <https://www.abs.gov.au>.

### Media note:

- When reporting ABS data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) must be attributed as the source.
- For media requests and interviews, contact the ABS Media Team on 1300 175 070 or [media@abs.gov.au](mailto:media@abs.gov.au) (8.30am - 5pm Monday - Friday AEST).
- The ABS produces trend estimates to provide a more reliable indicator of the underlying behaviour of the Labour Force series. Trend estimates were introduced into the Labour Force series in the mid 1980s and are available back to February 1978. Trend estimates are considered the best indicators of the underlying behaviour in the labour market. See paragraphs 29 to 38 of the Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).
- Labour Force Survey data is complemented by other ABS measures to build a comprehensive picture of the labour market. Jobs in Australia (cat. no. 6160.0) data provides insights into all jobs held throughout the year.
- Labour Accounts data provides the number of filled jobs at a point-in-time each quarter, while Labour Force data measures the number of people employed each month.
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This page last updated 15 May 2019

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